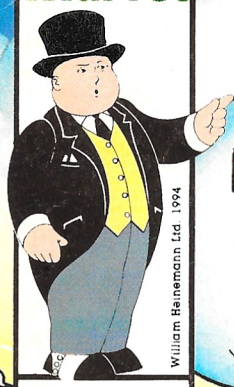
A SPECIAL GIFT FOR YOU!

marvel



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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.

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Not suitable for children under 36 months.
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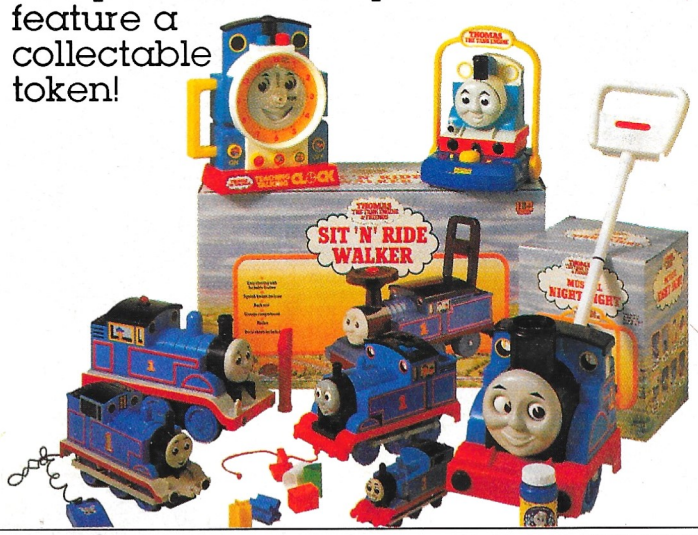
NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! What interesting sights can Thomas see on his travels around the Island of Sodor? In our first story, Thomas has spotted some very interesting animals! But, what plans will the Fat Controller have for Thomas's new friends? In our second story, you can read why there is so much excitement at the Island of Sodor Railway Museum! *Peep! Peep!*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

Don't miss our next issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. We will be presenting *Part 1* of our *2-part* competition, which features **Thomas Pre-school** toys from ***ERTL (UK) Ltd.*** This part of the competition will feature a collectable token!



How to obtain your Fat Controller's Card!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card** send one red, yellow and blue token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: **The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

Name .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode .....

Age .....

THOMAS TOKEN

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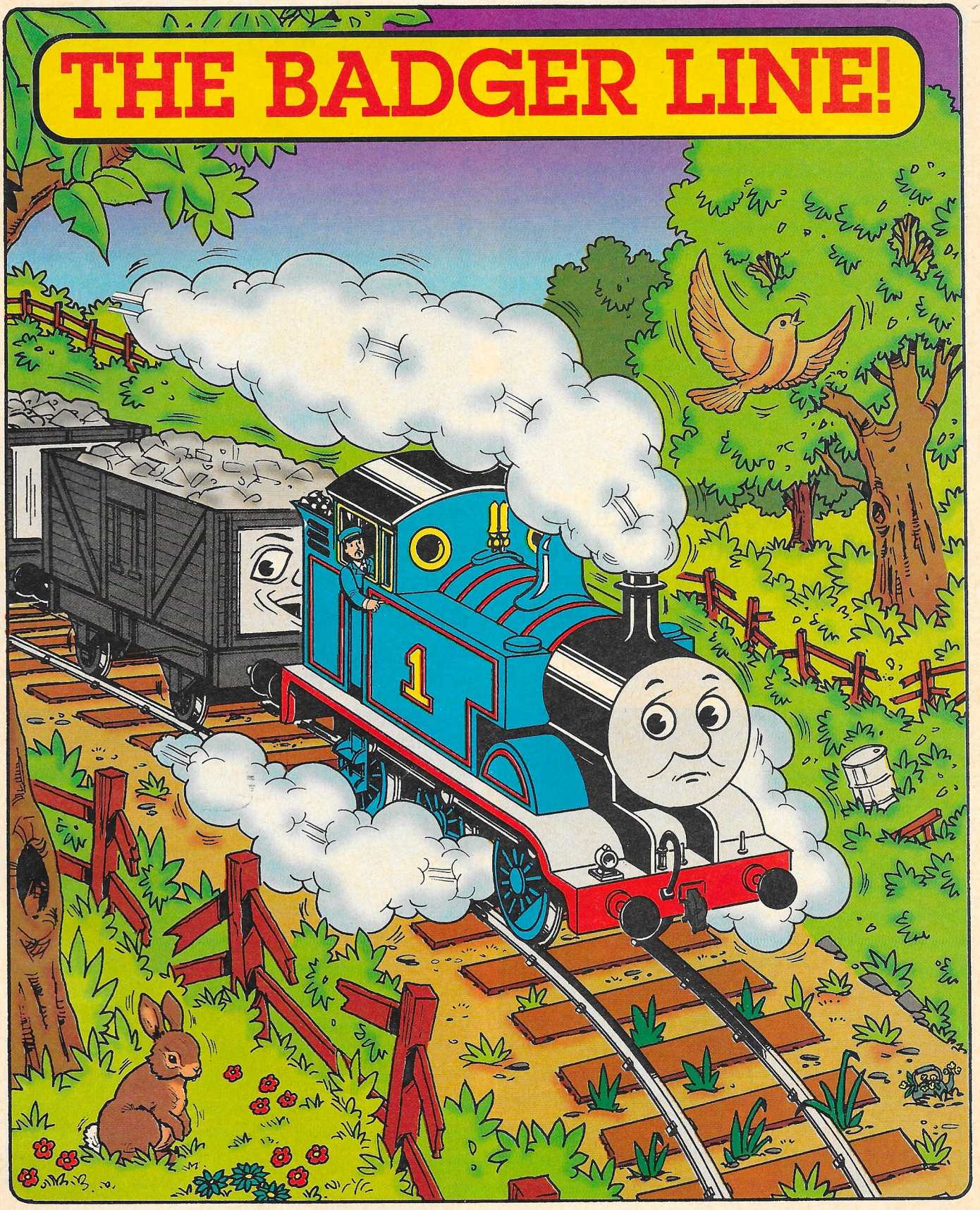
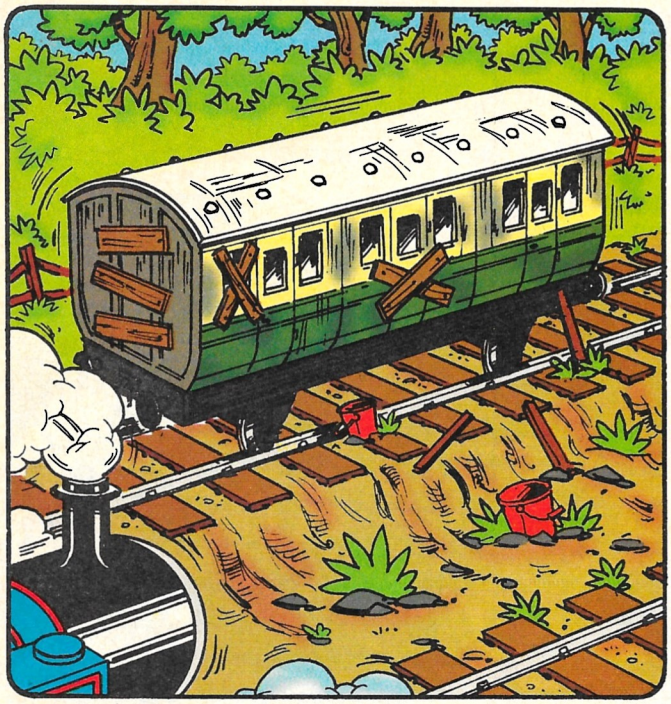
THE BADGER LINE!



1. One evening, Thomas pulled some trucks along a line that was rarely used. He had been re-routed, due to a points failure.

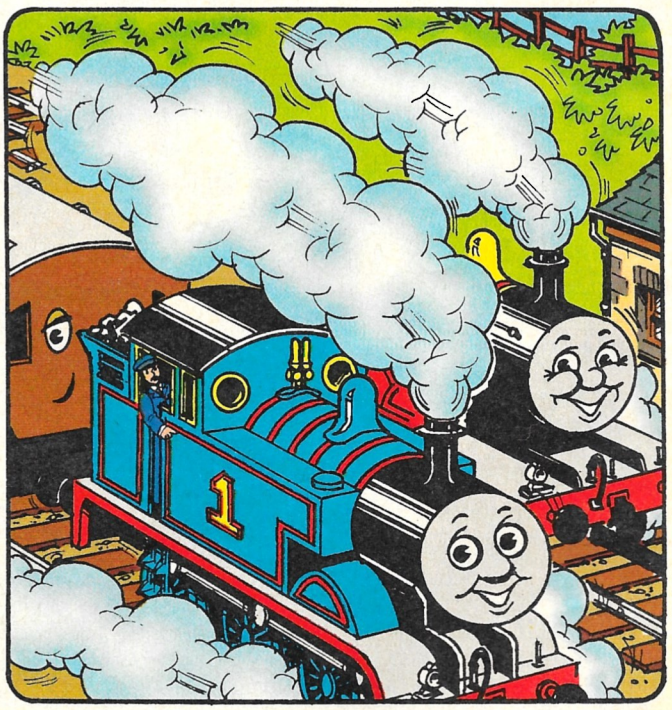
2. "I like this line!" he puffed. "It's to be closed!" his driver explained. "The line isn't used enough any more!" Thomas was shocked. "What a shame!" he sighed.



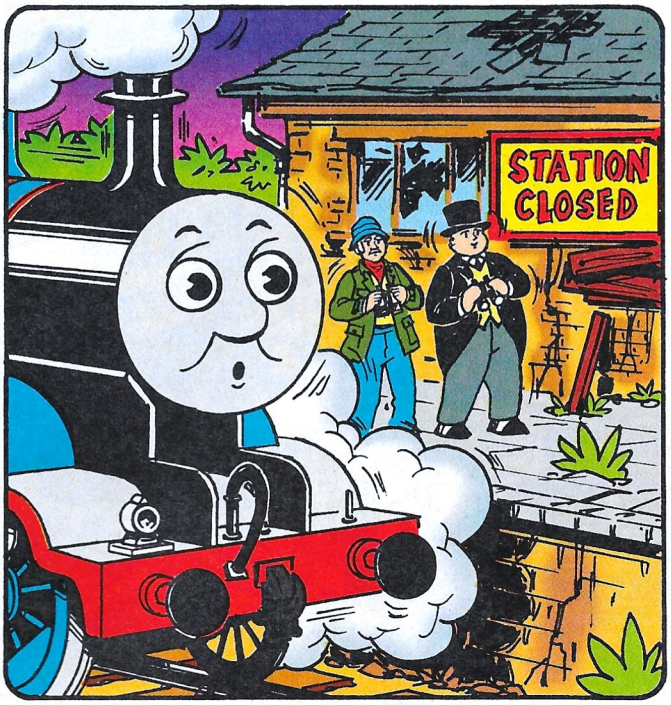
3. Thomas rolled through a station that had already been closed down. Farther on, he passed a siding where an old carriage stood above an embankment.

4. Beyond it, Thomas was surprised to see some animals with stripy heads. They appeared from a hole underground. "They've come to say goodbye!" he said.

5. Back at the Main Station, Thomas told his driver. "Why, they're called badgers!" he replied. Later, Thomas 's driver told his friend, who was a wildlife expert.



6. The next day, the expert asked the Fat Controller if Thomas could take him to see the badgers. The Fat Controller agreed and went along, too.

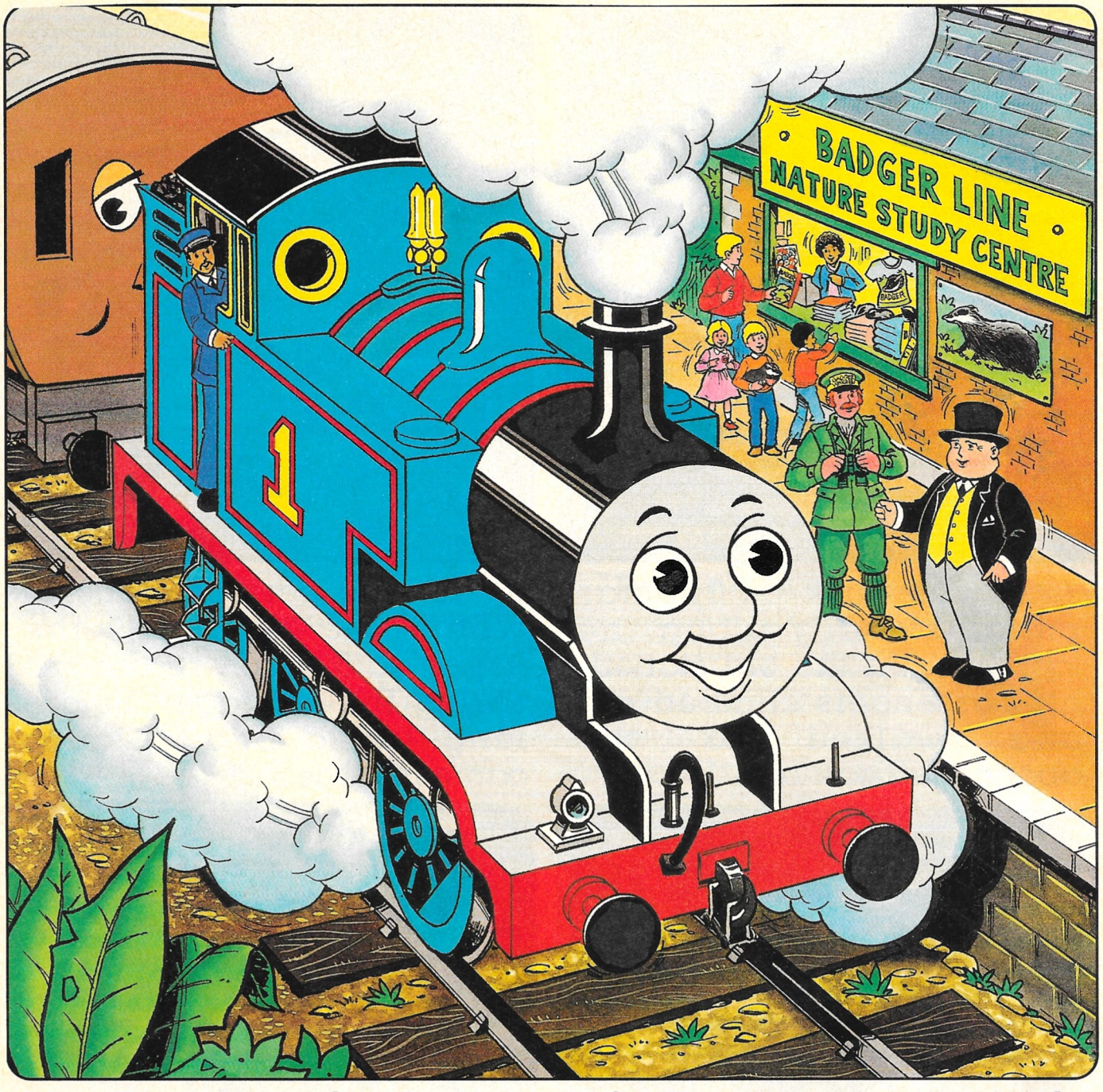


7. It was dusk as Thomas puffed steadily along the loop-line. At the old station, his passengers climbed out and walked to the abandoned carriage.

8. "It's the perfect place to watch the badgers!" the expert said. "They're used to seeing the carriage!" Before long, some badger cubs came into view.

9. After playing in the fields, the badgers returned home. "Wait till the other engines hear about this!" said Thomas. "Many nature-lovers will want to," said the expert.

10. News of the badgers and the line soon spread. It was all the engines talked about. A newspaper even printed the story, so interest grew and grew.



11. The Fat Controller decided to reopen the old station as a Nature Study Centre. Thomas and the other engines busily took workmen and equipment to and fro. The carriage in the siding was repaired, too, as a 'hide' where small groups could be taken to watch the badgers without disturbing them.

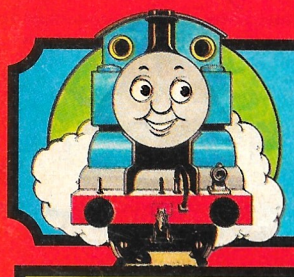
12. The expert was made Badger Warden and Thomas proudly carried the first visitors to the centre on its opening day. "The line is busy now, sir!" Thomas told the Fat Controller. "It's important people learn to care for wildlife!" he replied. "Thanks to you, Thomas, they can do that on our Badger Line!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Thomas and Daisy!

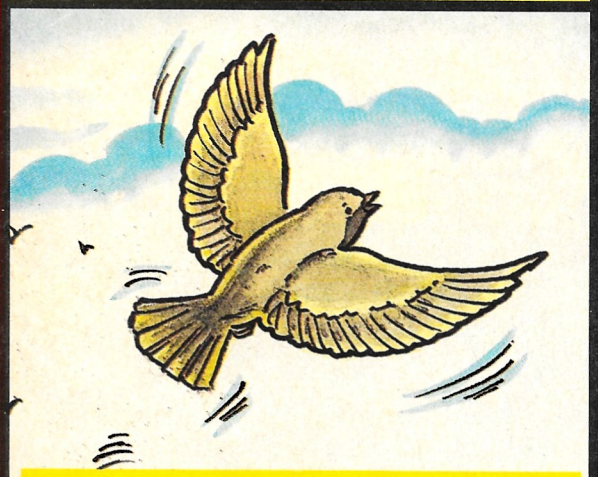
JOIN THE DOTS!

Bridget is happy to see some flowers,
But does she keep dry in the April showers?



WHAT CAN Y

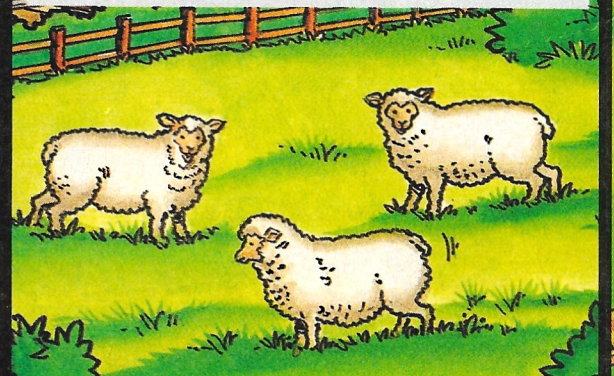
Look at the big picture! There are lots of interesting things to see along Thomas's branch line! But do you know what they are called? You can find out by looking at the smaller pictures around the edge of these pages and finishing the rhyming clues! Why not colour the big picture too?



I swoop high in the sky,
My songs gladly heard,
See me fly around the tree-tops,
I am called a _____

This plant grows in your garden,
Or sometimes high on a hill,
The flower is brightest yellow,
Yes! A fragrant _____

We graze on the open pasture,
In the spring, we frolic and leap,
Our coats are thick and woolly,
We are a flock of _____

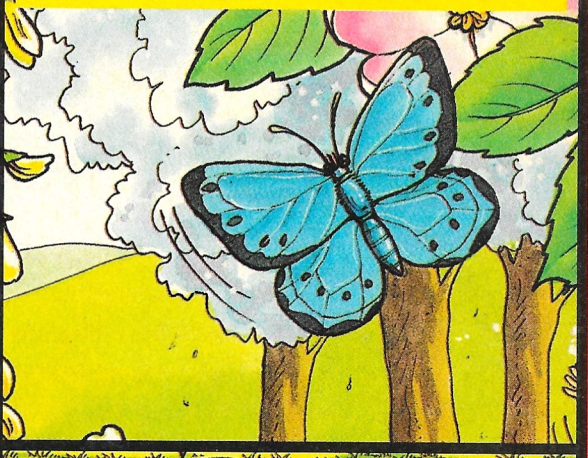


I live up in
And skip
I am called
I've a big

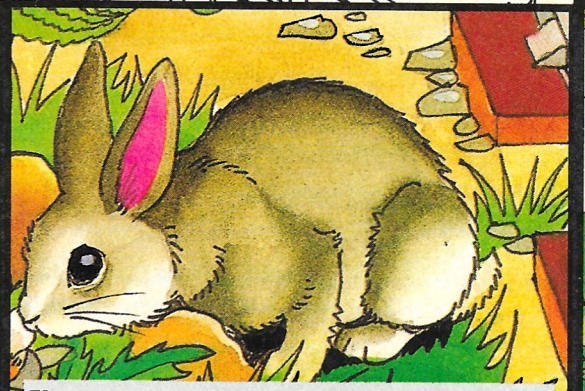
OU SEE TODAY?

Hear me croak by the pond,
Leaping around, I'm often seen,
With large eyes and long legs,
I'm a_____ ; my colour's green.

I was once a caterpillar,
Now I flutter in the sky,
With beautiful, bright wings,
I'm a colourful _____

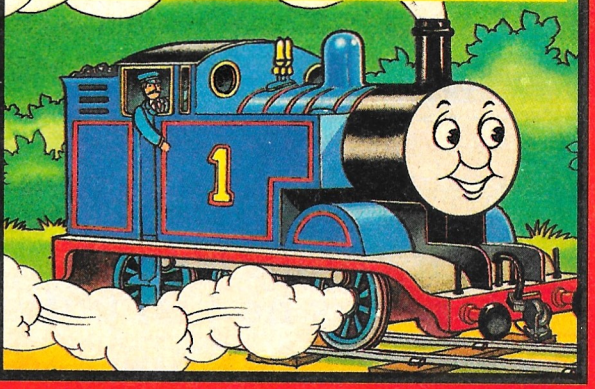


the tall trees,
around the dale,
a _____
and bushy tail.

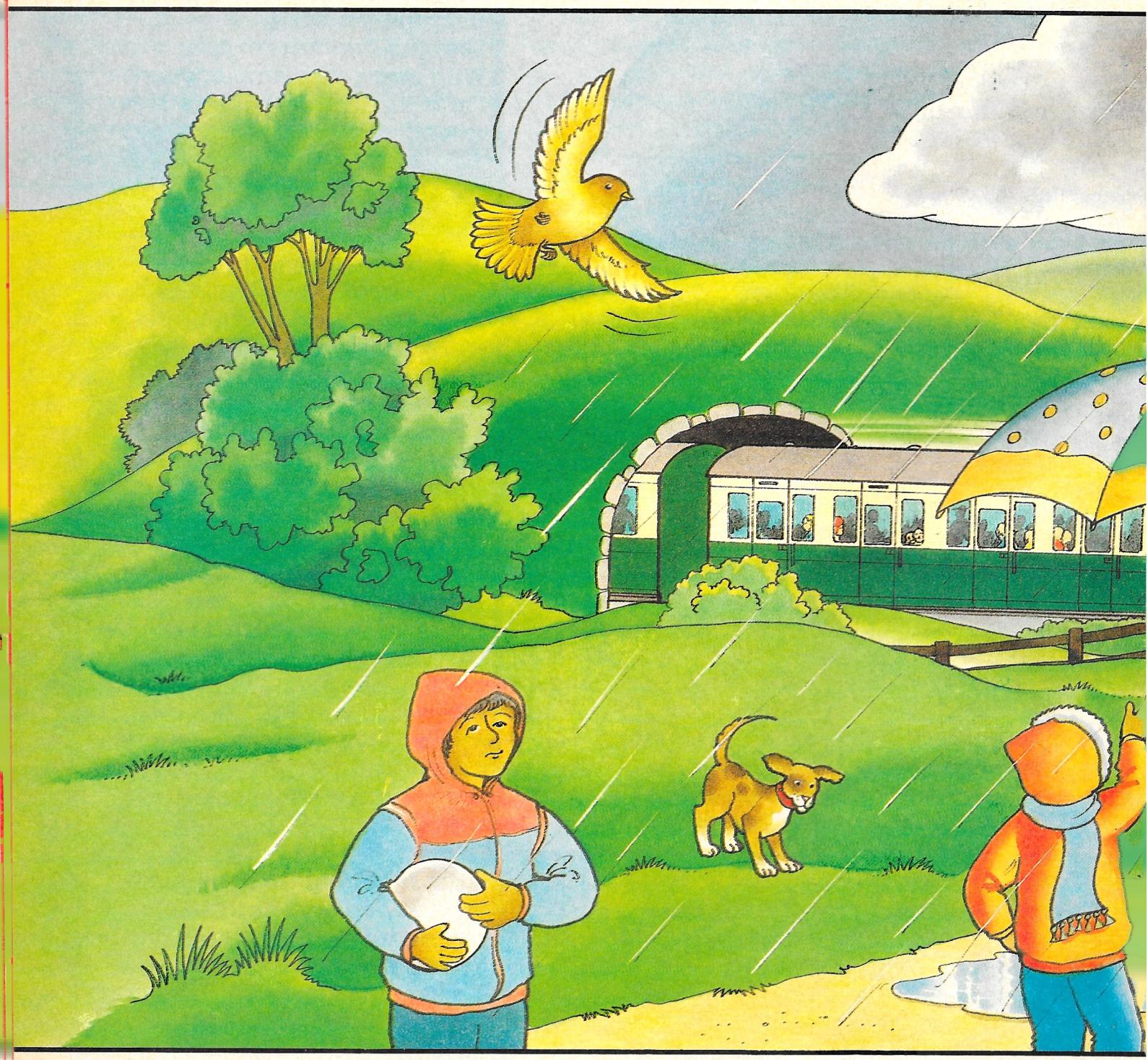


I've a small, fluffy tail,
Please don't try to grab it,
Long whiskers and long ears,
That's right, I'm a _____

I am a helpful tank engine,
And my colour is bright blue,
My name is _____
I'm Really Useful, too!



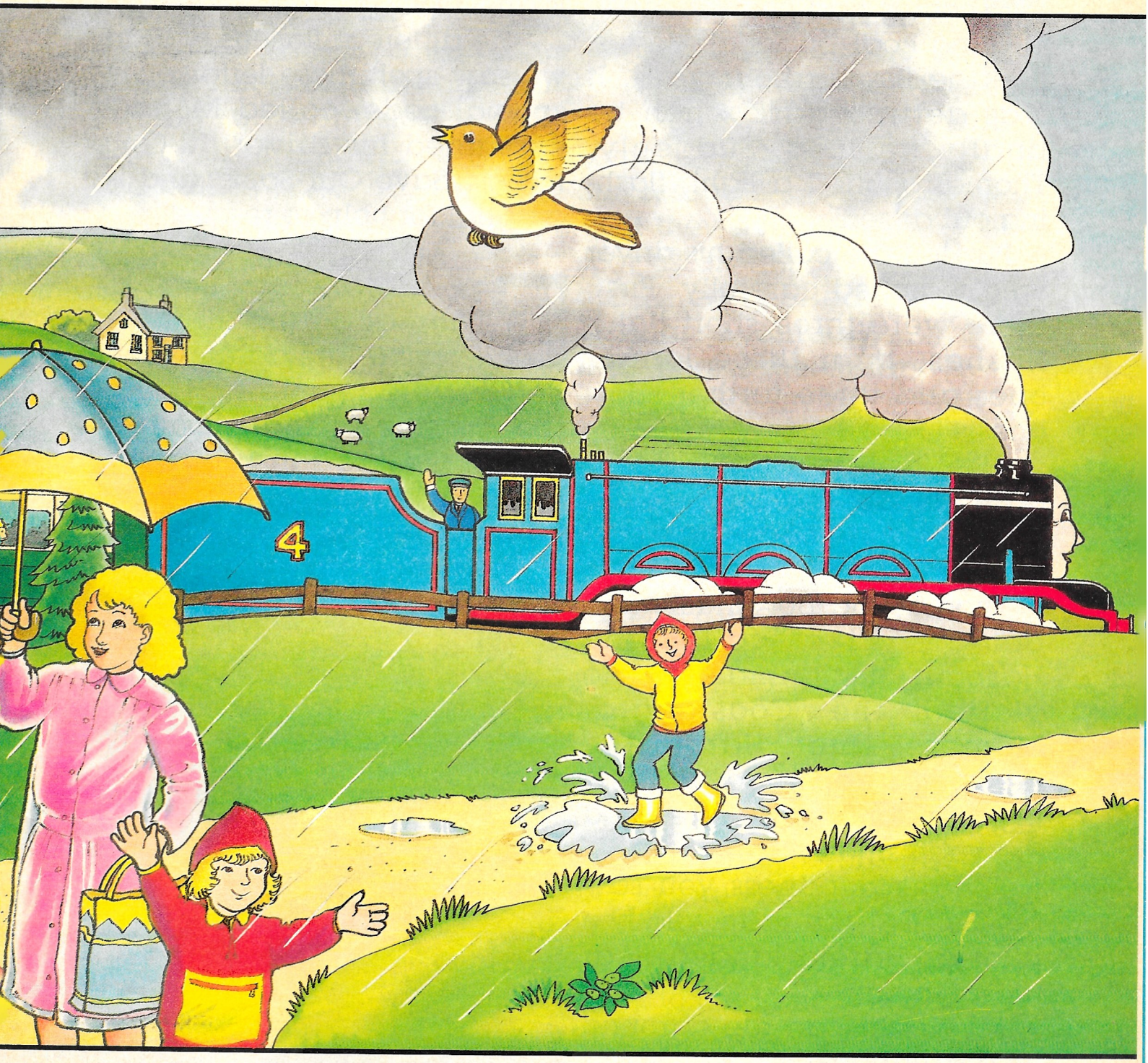
April show



Which engine can you see?
What colour is he?
What has he just puffed underneath?
How many carriages can you see?

Look at the
How many
Point to the
Can you see

ers!



eople in the park!
rds can you see?
mbrella!
the dog?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Past the treehouse!

SIGNAL S.O.S!

Thomas had been shunting coal trucks all day in the Big Harbour yard. It was getting dark when he finally finished. Suddenly, Thomas spotted a light, flashing out at sea.

Puzzled, he called his driver who watched carefully. First, there were three short light-flashes, then three longer ones and three further short ones.

"Dot-dot-dot, dash-dash-dash, dot-dot-dot!" said the driver. "Someone needs help and quickly!"

Thomas did not understand but his driver called the Harbour Stationmaster who alerted the Coastguard. Moments later, Harold the Helicopter appeared. He flew into the darkness and rescued the yachtsman.

"Thank goodness you saw my S.O.S.," the man told the pilot as Harold landed near the harbour.

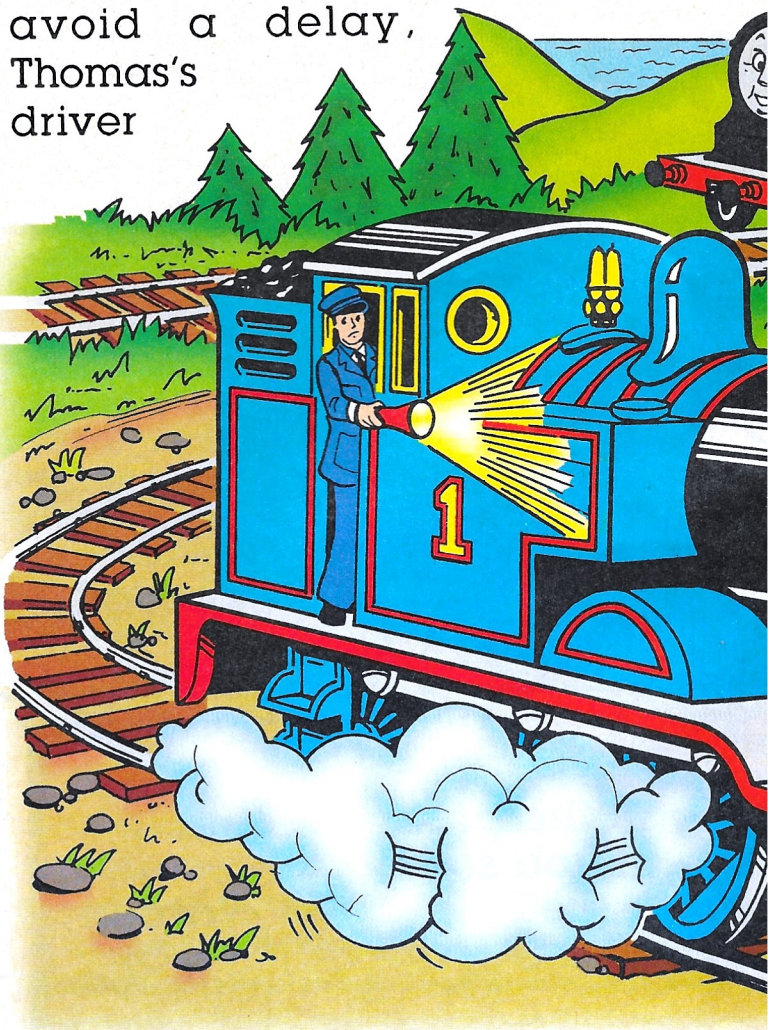
"My yacht had run aground on a sandbank!"

"It's Thomas we must thank," replied the pilot.

"What an exciting evening," said Thomas, returning to the Main Station at last. "But what is an S.O.S.?"

"The different flashes of light we saw spell those letters in a special code, called Morse," explained his driver. "S.O.S. means 'Save Our Souls' and is a signal for help or rescue!"

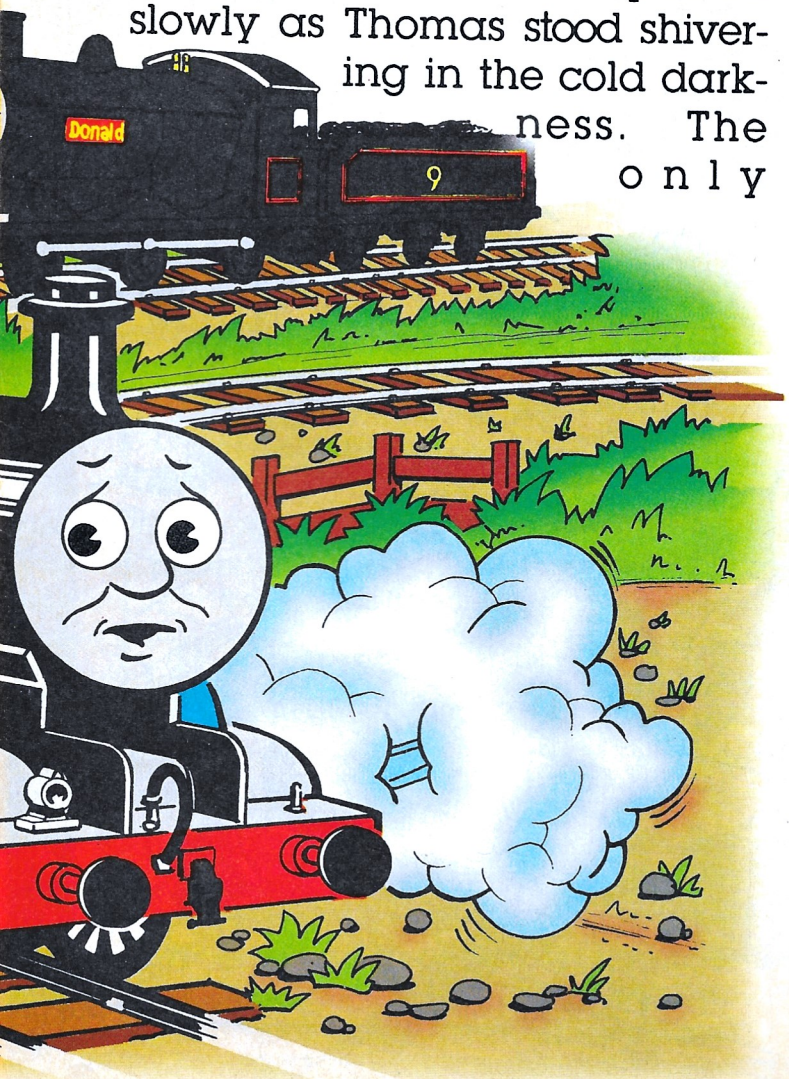
The following week, Thomas found himself working late again when he delivered some trucks to the far side of the Island of Sodor. On the long journey back, a level-crossing gate jammed across the track. To avoid a delay, Thomas's driver

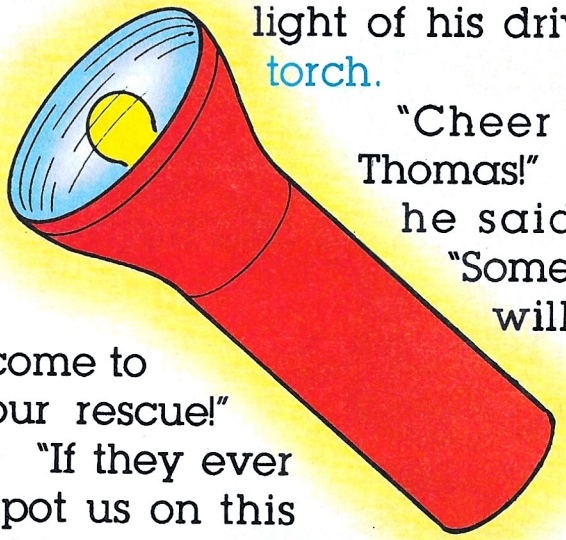


and fireman changed some points, so Thomas could be re-routed on to a disused line deep in the countryside. But he hadn't gone far when he developed a fault and began gushing steam. Huffing and puffing, he went slower and slower until, finally, he came to a halt.

"It's no use! I can't go any further!" hissed Thomas, gloomily. "I'll be stuck here all night!" There was nowhere his driver could go for help. Back at the Main Station, the anxious Fat Controller soon sent Donald to look for Thomas.

Meanwhile, the time passed slowly as Thomas stood shivering in the cold darkness. The only comfort was the light of his driver's torch.





torch

"Cheer up, Thomas!" he said. "Someone will come to our rescue!"

"If they ever spot us on this old line!" replied Thomas. Eventually, they heard the distant chuffing of an approaching engine.

"I hope it won't steam straight past on the other line! They're sure to have mended that crossing gate by now," said his driver.

"Use your torch to send an S.O.S.!" called Thomas, cleverly.

Luckily, Donald had heard all about the sea rescue and the S.O.S. Spotting the signal, he steamed on to the disused line and stopped by Thomas, then pulled him back to the Main Station.

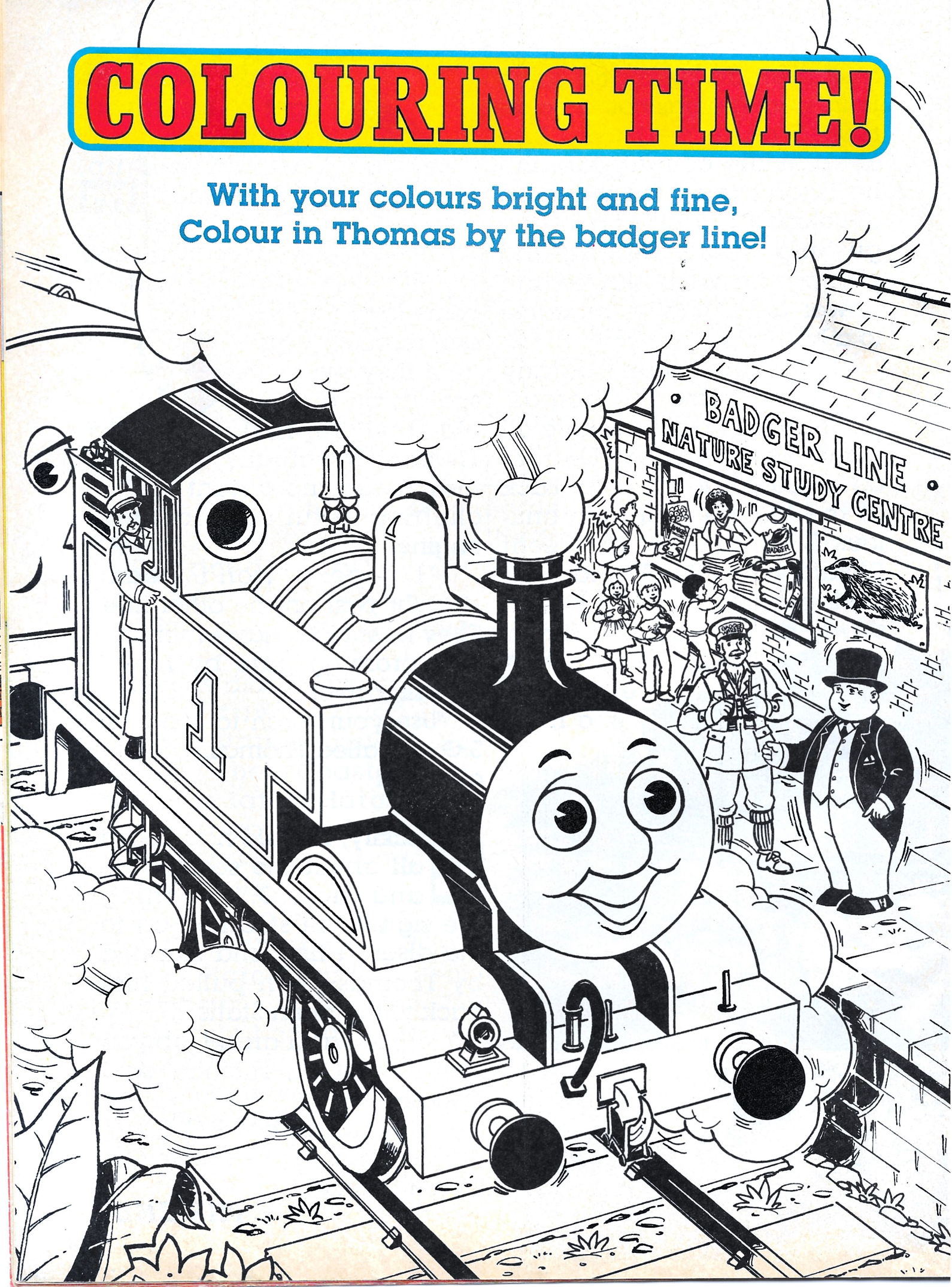
"Och, it was a grand job you sent that S.O.S., Thomas!" said Donald.

"It should be S.O.S.E.," grinned Thomas, "for Save Our Steam Engine!"

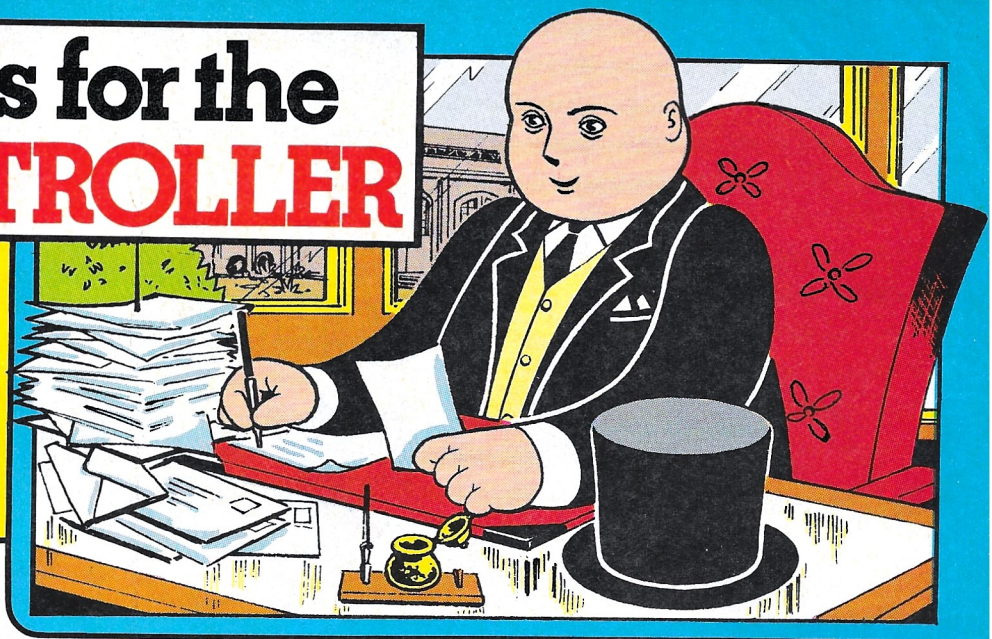
THE END!

COLOURING TIME!

With your colours bright and fine,
Colour in Thomas by the badger line!



Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
My mummy took me to see the *'pier train'*. I also played with my Thomas train in the playground. Do you think Thomas will ever come to see the *'pier train'* because I think he is very lonely?

Love from **Scott**, aged 2.

He may feel quite lonely from time to time but I'm sure the 'pier train' feels that he is a very important member of the coastal railway as he provides an important passenger service. Perhaps Thomas will meet him one day, in one of his exciting adventures!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win some splendid **Thomas Pre-school** toys courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*

CLUMSY DIESEL!

Dear Fat Controller,
I like playing with Thomas and his friends and making engine sheds. They have all been good trains apart from Diesel. What do you do when the real Diesel is naughty!

Lots of love from **Daniel Taylor**, aged 4.

Diesel is always likely to stir up trouble and he is given lots of encouragement from the troublesome trucks. If Diesel is very naughty, I have to keep him in the engine shed for several days. But, often, he can be more clumsy than naughty!

GREAT RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
My great-grandad was a gate-keeper on a level crossing for the Great Eastern Railway. His favourite stories are all about Duck!

Love from **Zak Szadowski**, aged 3.

Your great-grandad must have a very fine knowledge of all the great railways! I particularly enjoy reading about Duck's adventures, too! He always maintains his Great Western Railway standards.

BIRTHDAYS!

Richard Mawdsley, William Edwin Marsden, Toby Wilkes, Christopher Allen, Terry Gosling, Jonathan Slater, Kristopher Coveney, Rebekkah Maud, Danny Chapman, Alan Douglas Montgomery, Peter Fletcher, Jack Joseph Walsh, Guy Paul Ingram, Ashley Stephen Hadfield, Michael A. Connell and Craig Heumann.

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a post-card at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
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13/15 Arundel Street
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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

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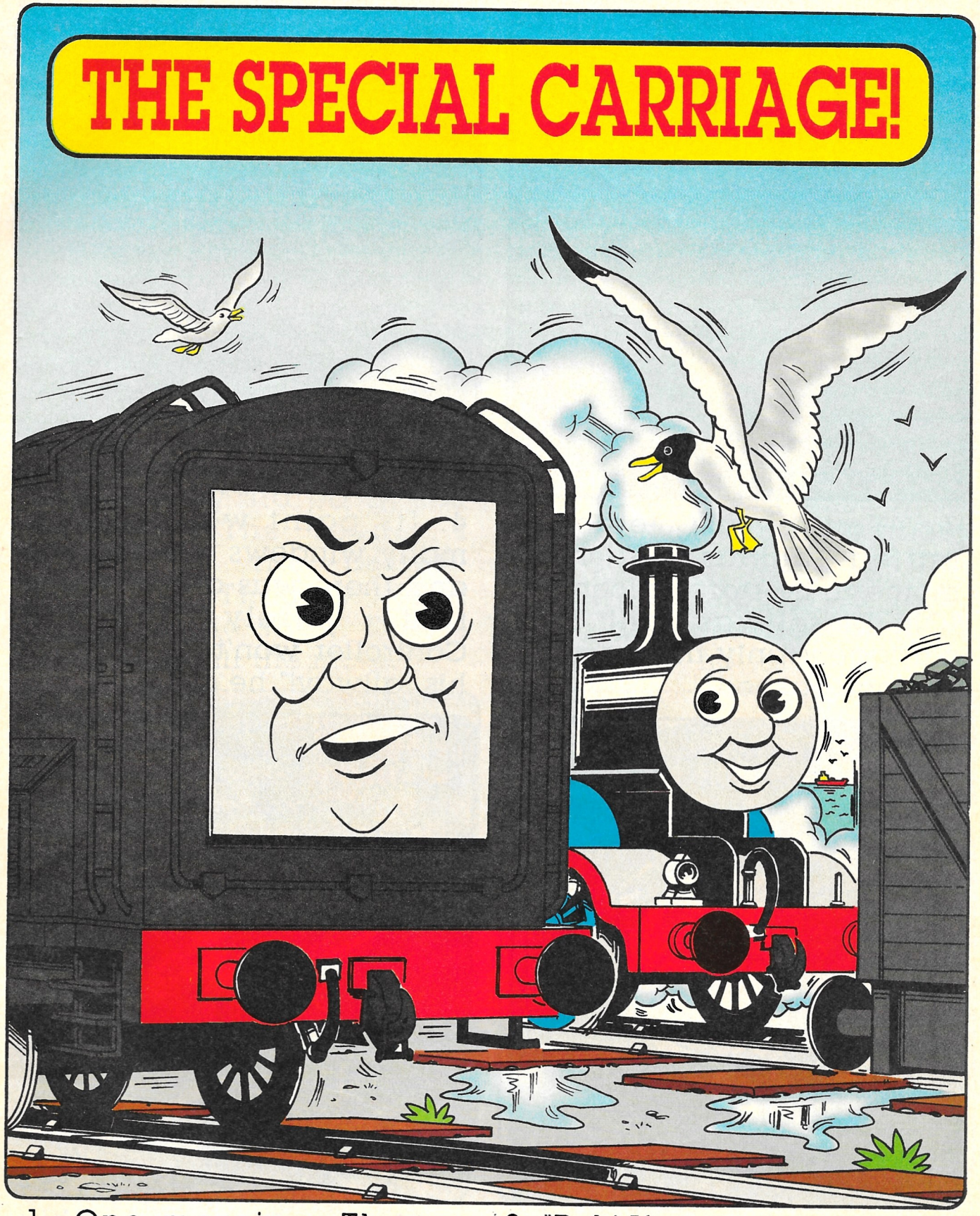
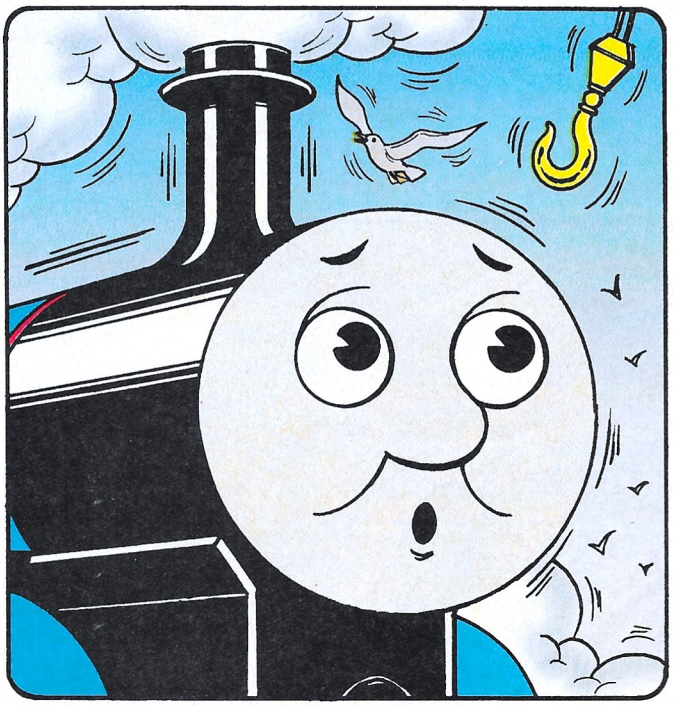
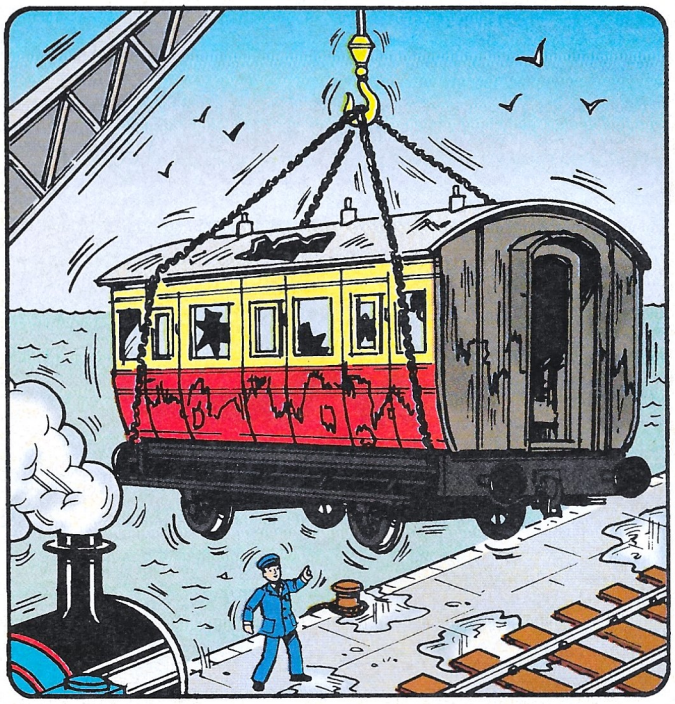


1. One morning, Thomas was sent to the Big Harbour. "I have to collect a very special carriage arriving from the mainland!" he told Diesel, proudly.

2. "Pah! If you mean that old wreck being unloaded by crane, you're welcome!" hissed Diesel unkindly, in his oily voice. "It's even older than you, Thomas!"

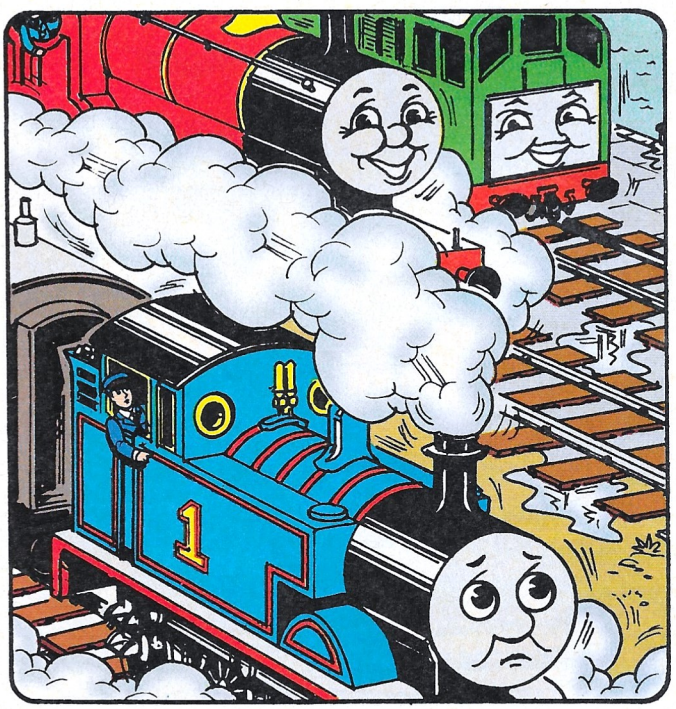


3. "You're just jealous!" huffed Thomas. But, next moment, he stared gloomily. "Oh, Diesel was right! That carriage is only fit for scrap!" Thomas gasped.

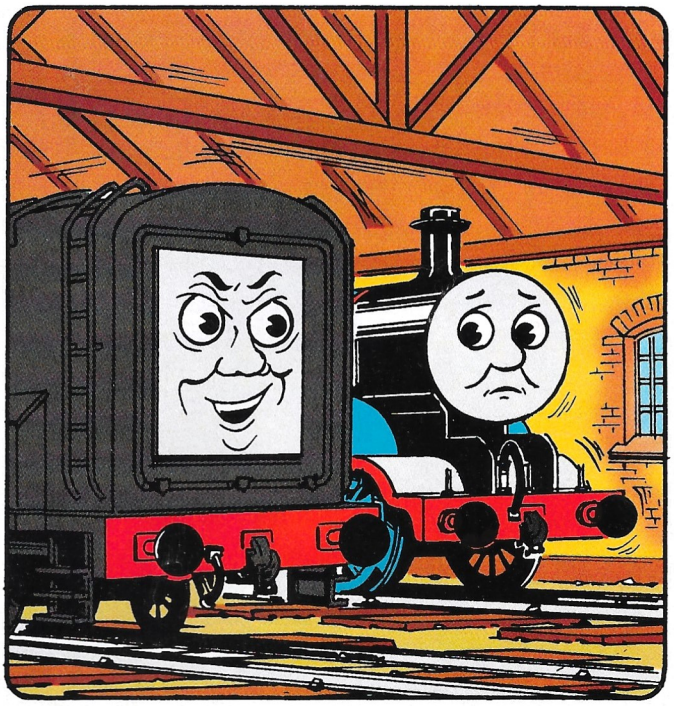


4. Its paint was peeling, many windows were broken and there was a hole in the roof. "Surely, the Fat Controller won't use that on his railway!" he cried.

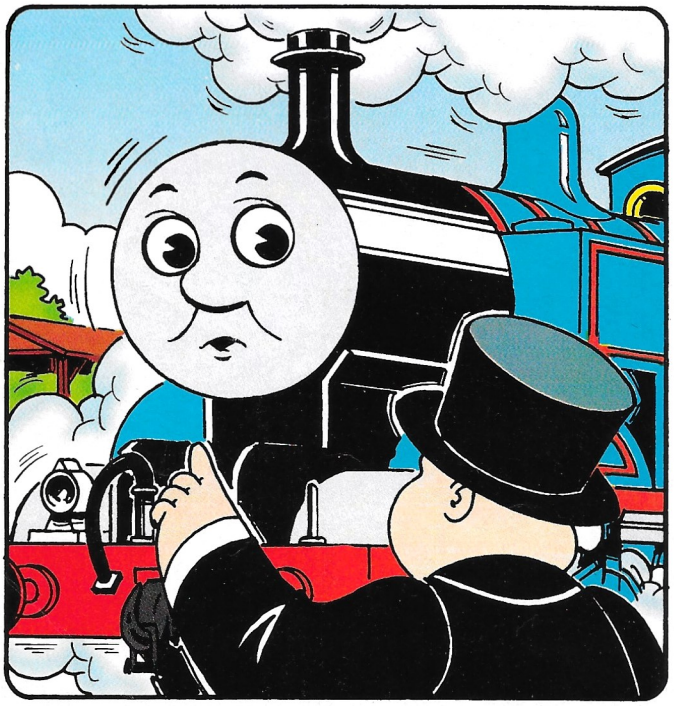
5. "We're to take it to the Works!" said Thomas's driver. Diesel laughed as the ancient carriage squeaked and groaned when it was coupled to Thomas.



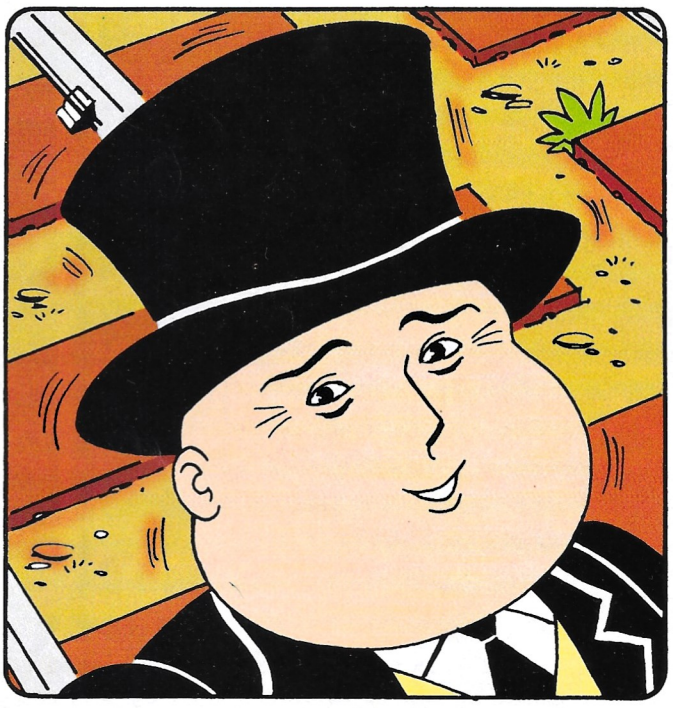
6. "You wouldn't catch a big modern diesel like me, pulling that piece of junk!" said Diesel. Thomas puffed crossly on his way, passing James and Boco.



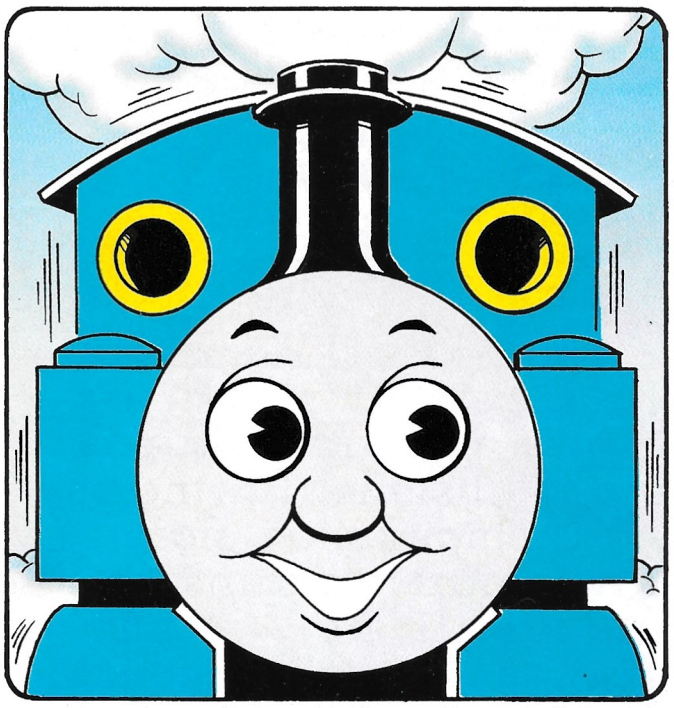
7. How they stared at the carriage! "The sooner I deliver it, the better!" grumbled Thomas. That night, in the shed, Diesel teased him all the more!



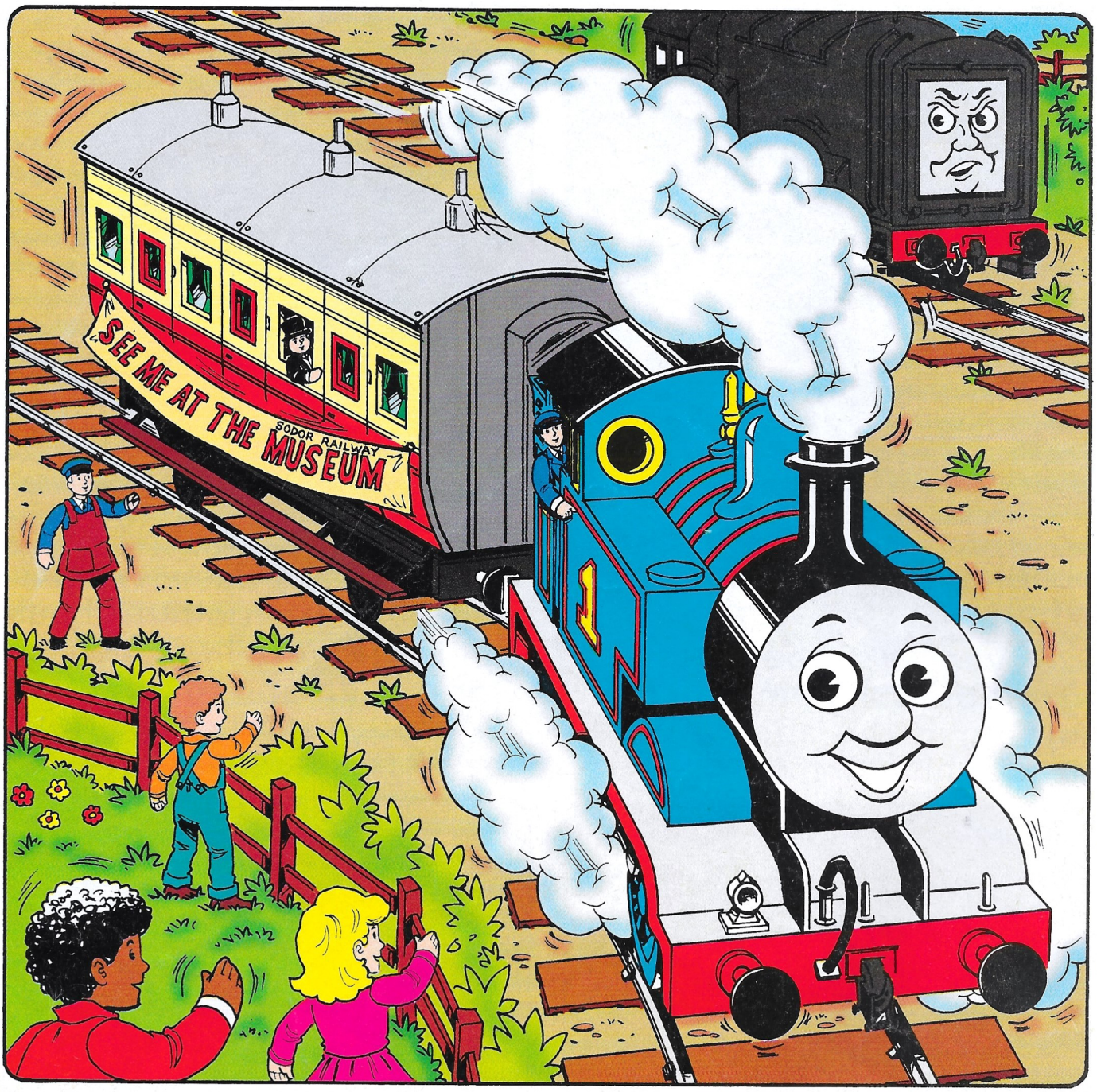
8. Two weeks later, Thomas had almost forgotten about the carriage when the Fat Controller spoke to him. "You are to collect it from the Works!" he said.



9. "Please, Sir, can't someone else do it?" asked Thomas. "I think you've earned a treat!" replied the Fat Controller. "I'm coming with you, too!"



10. Thomas was puzzled as to why the Fat Controller wanted to travel in the battered carriage. But when he saw it at the Works, Thomas couldn't believe his eyes!



11. There it stood, as if brand-new. Freshly-painted, it glistened in the sun. As Thomas rolled closer, he saw smart curtains hanging at its new windows and there were even big arm-chairs inside. "The carriage is to be the prize exhibit at the Sodor Railway Museum," the Fat Controller told Thomas.

12. He felt very important as he pulled it there. People pointed excitedly. A big banner, draped across the carriage, advertised the museum. Then Thomas saw Diesel looking jealous. "You're right, Diesel!" he smiled. "You're much too modern to pull such a magnificent, historical carriage!"

THE END!

In our next issue: A Ride for Star!